



NEWS RELEASE

**STATE BOARD
OF EQUALIZATION**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**ASSESSMENT PRACTICES SURVEY REPORT RELEASED
FOR SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

Carole Migden, Chairwoman, State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released an assessment practices survey report on Santa Clara County.

Once every five years, the BOE conducts a review of each county's property tax assessment functions to determine whether properties are being assessed properly and to identify areas where improvements should be made. Issued as an "**Assessment Practices Survey**," the report provides an overview of how well the duties of the assessor are performed and includes recommendations to correct assessment deficiencies and improve compliance with state law.

The BOE found that most properties in Santa Clara County are being assessed properly, and the overall quality of the assessment roll meets the minimum standards required by the state to qualify for augmentation funds. However, the report provides 29 recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the assessor's operations. Included among those recommendations are the following:

- Properly apply the low-value property exemption.
- Apply an appropriate depreciation allowance to the value of newly constructed additions to existing improvements.
- Reappraise month-to-month possessory interests only at the expiration of the anticipated term of possession as provided in Revenue and Taxation Code section 61(b)(2).

The review focused on the quality of the 2002-2003 Santa Clara County assessment roll, which contained 534,379 assessments having a total enrolled value of \$218 billion.

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Note: A copy of the Santa Clara County Assessment Practices Survey Report is available upon request or can be found on the BOE's Web site at <http://www.boe.ca.gov/>.